

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2810

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, US, CY
SUBJ: MEETING WITH CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES

1. CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES HAD MEETING AT
HIS REQUEST WITH VISITING DEPARTMENT OFFICER TO REVIEW
FORTHCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS.
CHRISTOPHIDES STRONGLY ADVOCATED INSERTING IN SC RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZATION FOR THREE-NATION NONALIGNED STUDY GROUP
WHICH WOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION IN CHPRUS AND RECOMMEND
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAYS IN WHICH PREVIOUS UN
RESOLUTIONS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID
NEW IDEA OF THIS KIND WAS NEEDED TO CALM GREEK-CYPRIOT
PUBLIC OPINION. HE ASKED WHETHER US WOULD BE PREPARED TO
SUPPORT THIS IDEA OR COULD DEVELOP BETTER PLAN OF
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ITS OWN TO GET AROUND PRESENT IMPASSE.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID SGUDY GROUP IDEA STRUCK
US AS UNPRODUCTIVE. IDEA WAS UNLIKELY TO BE WELL
RECEIVED BY TURKS, WHO WOULD NONTHELESS SEEK TO
HIDE BEHIND IT AND NOT NEGOTIATE WHILE STUDY GROUP

WAS DELIBERATING. MOREOVER, LIKELY COMPOSITION OF ANY NONALIGNED STUDY GROUP WAS SUCH THAT IT WAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO COME UP WITH DIVIDED RECOMMENDATIONS. TWO-TO-ONE SPLIT WAS ALMOST CERTAINTY. TURKS WOULD EMBRACE MINORITY VIEWS AND GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD SUPPORT MAJORITY FINDINGS BUT SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD PRESUMABLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACT ON BASIS OF EITHER SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS. THE RESULT WOULD BE A FURTHER STALEMATE.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID THERE WAS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINED INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS BETWEEN TWO COMMUNITIES ON CYPRUS UNDER UN AEGIS. INSTEAD OF STUDY GROUP CONCEPT, US WOULD THINK IT BETTER TO HAVE SECURITY COUNCIL RECOMMEND RESUMPTION OF INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS ON DATE WHICH HAD BEEN MUTUALLY AGREED BY PARTIES IN ADVANCE. NOVEMBER 1ST MIGHT BE USED AS TARGET DATE BY WHICH TIME PARTIES WOULD HAVE MET AND AFTER WHICH SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD MAKE FURTHER REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT THIS TIME FRAME WOULD ENABLE US TO HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH TURKS IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO UNGA SESSION SO THAT DETAILED DISCUSSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL QUESTIONS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. IN ANY EVENT, TURKS WOULD KNOW THAT NEXT ROUND OF INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS WOULD BE THE LAST WITHOUT SOME SECURITY COUNCIL OR A GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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MOVE TO CREATE NONALIGNED STUDY GROUP OR CONVOKE WIDER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER CYPRUS ISSUE.

4. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE APPRECIATED US ANALYSIS OF STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL, WHICH CORRESPONDED CLOSELY TO HIS OWN PRIVATE ANALYSIS. NONETHELESS, SOMETHING NEW WAS NEEDED AND MERE REITERATION BY SECURITY COUNCIL OF DESIRABILITY OF EARLY INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS WAS NOT AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE. HOLDING TALKS IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER TIME FRAME ALSO DID NOT SEEM PROMISING BECAUSE THIS WOULD INTERFERE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF CYPRUS AGENDA ITEM. CHRISTOPHIDES EXPRESSED REGRET THAT US COULD COME UP WITH NO NEW IDEA AND SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT AUTHORIZED DISCUSS RESUMPTION OF INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS WITH WALDHEIM. THIS WOULD EXCEED THE MANDATE UNDER WHICH HE HAD BEEN SENT TO NEW YORK.

5. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE HAD TALKED OVER STUDY GROUP IDEA WITH WALDHEIM WHO EXPRESSED NEITHER SUPPORT

NOR OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL. CHRISTOPHIDES ENDED
CONVERSATION BY ASKING THAT IF IDEA OBTAINED
WALDHEIM SUPPORT, US NOT OPPOSE CONCEPT. DEPARTMENT
OFFICER SAID THAT US WOULD NOT OPPOSE ANY IDEA
WHICH COMMANDED THE SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
AND A MAJORITY OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THERE
WAS NO SUBSTITUTE TO THE INTER-COMMUNAL NEGOTIATING
FORUM AS IT NOW EXISTED, THOUGH WE WOULD CONTINUE TO
EXAMINE OTHER POSSIBILITIES AS THE DISCUSSION IN
NEW YORK PROCEEDED OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
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